

Yesterday and Yesterday

enlightenment to the enlightened,⁴ and *The Times*—
what shall be
said of *The Times*, 'Who's' very voice, taking in the
chaos of a
troubled world and putting forth smooth
persuasion; hurrying
along behind tumultuous events, and, sometimes
with a slight
catch of breathlessness, no more than that,
interpreting them—
like the owner of a Derby runner, top-hatted,
holding the bridle
of his champing horse to be photographed;
finding in Spain
some months before the Republic was declared
clear indications
that loyalty to the Throne was 'deeply rooted in
both town and
country', and 'the great mass of the Spanish people
undoubtedly
monarchists'; in Dr. Bruning 'the best since
Bismarck', in
General Schleicher he in whom 'all Germany heard
its master's
voice', in Mr. Chamberlain's conversations with
Herr Hitler at
Munich in 1938 clear indications that 'Mr.
Chamberlain offered
concessions from strength and not from weakness',
this winning
him 'a respect that might not otherwise have been
accorded'.⁵
'Who' survives, but with less confidence than
before. Doubt
has crept in, and apprehension. Much that was
taken for granted
can now be taken for granted no longer. Even
facetiousness
has grown somewhat tremulous. To-day's joke has
a way of
becoming to-morrow's reality. With Dr. Goebbels,
German
Minister for Propaganda and Enlightenment, it
is difficult

⁴ 'To the Women's Freedom League to-day Miss Elise
Sprott, who has for
eleven years been on the staff of the B.B.C., spoke at the
Minerva Club on
women and the radio . . .'

⁵ Occasionally unintentional comedy is provided.
For instance, on
January 23, 1931, there appeared in the *Western Mail* a
burlesque interview

with Mr. Lloyd George by the 'Junior Member for Treorchy', such burlesque interviews being a regular weekly feature in the paper. The next day *The Times*, assuming the interview to be authentic, referred to it editorially:

'In a remarkable interview which Mr. Lloyd George accorded on his birthday to the representative of a provincial paper, the "little Wizard" is reported as saying, "I am not prepared to commit myself just yet in regard to my future destiny. I may go to the Right, or I may drift to die Left. My decision will be dependent on circumstances. In the meantime, I must wait until I can discern *where the land lies*," This no doubt correctly represents the attitude of the Liberal Party, but circumstances seem to be conspiring . . . /